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press release

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The recovery in American machine tool orders continued during the month of January when they rose 26% above December's level, to reach a total value of \$190,950,000. This order total was slightly more than double the machine tool order rate a year ago when January orders were only \$91,850,000. The data was reported by the National Machine Tool Builders' Association in McLean, Virginia.

Even with January's substantial rise, however, machine tool orders are still 60% below their level just four years ago. In early 1980 machine tool orders were averaging about \$500,000,000 per month.

January machine tool shipments, reflecting the very low order rates during early 1983, declined 53% from their December rate to a total value of only \$112,000,000. Also, compared to last year, January 1984 shipments were down 27%.

"It is very encouraging to see the continued recovery in orders." said James A. Gray,

-over-

Contact:

Charles Pollock



**national
machine
tool builders'
association**

7901 WESTPARK DRIVE
MCLEAN, VIRGINIA 22102
AREA CODE (703) 893-2900
TWX: 710 831-0031 NMTBA MCLN

President of the Association. "However, as the shipments data dramatically shows, the machine tool industry's problems are a long way from over.

"With imported machine tools supplying more than 36% of the market; with shipments at rock bottom; with workforces that are facing long-term layoffs; the recovery of America's machine tool industry will be slow -- and for many, painful." Gray added. "A breathing spell from the tidal wave of imports is, I think, absolutely imperative to keep this vital defense industry's recovery from aborting." he added.

The National Machine Tool Builders' Association has petitioned President Reagan to provide a reduction in machine tool imports to their early 1978 level, for a brief period of five years, to protect America's national security by allowing the industry to fully recover from the damage done by subsidized import targeting of the American machine tool market and from the recession.

During January, orders for metal-cutting type machine tools rose 48% to a level of \$135,050,000 while metal-forming machine tool orders declined 7% from their December total to a value of \$55,900,000. Compared to a year ago, metal-cutting machine orders were up 137%, while metal-forming machine orders were 61% higher.

Shipments of metal-cutting machines fell 61% during January, to a value of \$71,600,000. Metal-forming machine tool shipments were off 28% to a value of \$40,400,000.

The industry's backlog rose about \$100,000,000 during the month, to a value of \$1.124 billion.

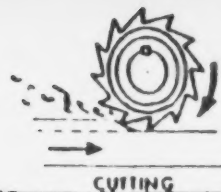
COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS (Thousands of Dollars)

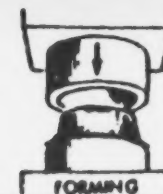
	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
Jan. 1984	124,050	11,000	135,050	53,050	2,850	55,900	177,100	13,850	190,950
Dec. 1983	84,150	7,100	91,250	48,300	11,700	60,000	132,450	18,800	151,250
% Change									
Jan.1984:Dec.1983	+47.4	+54.9	+48.0	+9.8	-75.6	-6.8	+33.7	-26.3	+26.2
Jan. 1983	51,350	5,700	57,050	28,950	5,850	34,800	80,300	11,550	91,850
% Change									
Jan. 1984:Jan. 1983	+141.6	+93.0	+136.7	+83.2	-51.3	+60.6	+120.5	+19.9	+107.9
Year To Date 1984									
Year To Date 1983		N/A			N/A			N/A	
% Change									
1984 : 1983									

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS (Thousands of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
Jan. 1984	64,400	7,200	71,600	35,550	4,850	40,400	99,950	12,050	112,000
Dec. 1983	152,150	29,600	181,750	54,350	1,700	56,050	206,500	31,300	237,800
% Change									
Jan.1984:Dec.1983	-57.7	-75.7	-60.6	-34.6	+185.3	-27.9	-51.6	-61.5	-52.9
Jan. 1983	93,400	14,000	107,400	38,050	7,400	45,450	131,450	21,400	152,850
% Change									
Jan. 1984:Jan. 1983	-31.0	-48.6	-33.3	-6.6	-34.5	-11.1	-24.0	-43.7	-26.7
Year To Date 1984									
Year To Date 1983		N/A			N/A			N/A	
% Change									
1984 : 1983									



TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog



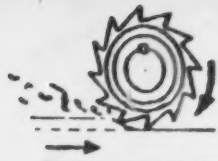
DATE	NET NEW ORDERS			Order Backlog (In Mil. \$)	SHIPMENTS		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total		Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan. (p)	\$ 177,100,000	\$ 13,850,000	\$ 190,950,000	1,123.65	\$ 99,950,000	\$ 12,050,000	\$ 112,000,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS			CANCELLATIONS		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984						
Jan. (p)	\$ 185,450,000	\$ 14,600,000	\$ 200,050,000	\$ 8,350,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 9,100,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS			Order Backlog (In Mil. \$)	SHIPMENTS		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total		Domestic	Foreign	Total
<u>1984</u>							
Jan. (p)	\$ 124,050,000	\$ 11,000,000	\$ 135,050,000	886.60	\$ 64,400,000	\$ 7,200,000	\$ 71,600,000

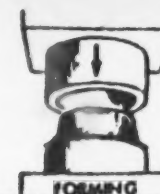
DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS				CANCELLATIONS		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total		Domestic	Foreign	Total
<u>1984</u>							
Jan. (p)	\$ 129,100,000	\$ 11,050,000	\$ 140,150,000		\$ 5,050,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 5,100,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. F - 1c

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS			Order Backlog (In Mil. \$)	SHIPMENTS		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total		Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan. (p)	\$ 53,050,000	\$ 2,850,000	\$ 55,900,000	237.05	\$ 35,550,000	\$ 4,850,000	\$ 40,400,000

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS				CANCELLATIONS		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total		Domestic	Foreign	Total
1984							
Jan. (p)	\$ 56,350,000	\$ 3,550,000	\$ 59,900,000		\$ 3,300,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 4,000,000

P - Preliminary

N.M.T.B.A. P - 1d

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.